

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 02330 151423Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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R 151325Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7976

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION UN

EUCOM

USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2330

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY LY MT ET

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS RETURNS TO CYPRUS

SUMMARY: ARCHBISHOP RETURNED FROM 13 DAY TRIP ABROAD NOV 13. IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE, HE (1) ENDEAVORED PORTRAY BRIEF STAY IN ATHENS AS MARKED BY CLOSENESS OF VIEWS, (2) HEDGED AS TO PLANS FOR FORMAL VISIT TO GREECE, (3) ADDRESSED POSSIBLE FAILURE OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS, AND (4) AVOIDED POLEMICS AGAINST GRIVAS OR TURK CYPRIOTS. SO FAR GOVT HAS DOWNPLAYED STRONGER POSITIONS RE ARABS, FOREIGN FLEETS IN MED, AS CARRIED IN COMMUNIQUE FROM LIBYAN VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. NOV 13 ARCHBISHOP RETURNED FROM 13 DAY, FOUR-NATION TRIP ABROAD. IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE HE SAID THAT TALK WITH
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 02330 151423Z

MARKEZINIS HAD LAID "SOUND FOUNDATIONS...FOR FURTHER CLOSE

AND SINCERE COOPERATION", AND HE CLAIMED THERE HAD BEEN NO DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS CONCERNING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AND DOMESTIC SITUATION ON CYPRUS. ARCHBISHOP ADDED THAT GREECE WAS DETERMINED HELP HIM RESTORE INTERNAL HARMONY ON ISLAND AND HE GENERALLY ENDORSED MARKEZINIS RECIPE OF "FORGETTING, LENIENCY, RECONCILIATION". (NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, PRO GOVT "PHILELEFTHEROS" RATHER PETULANTLY ADDED THAT FORGETTING WILL BE DONE WHEN GRIVAS CAMP GIVES UP TERRORIST METHODS.) ARCHBISHOP STRUCK SOMEWHAT PESSIMISTIC NOTE RE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS BY POINTING OUT THAT RESERVATIONS AS TO THEIR OUTCOME WERE JUSTIFIED AND THAT WITH MARKEZINIS HE HAD DWELT MORE ON WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF THEIR FAILURE RATHER THAN THEIR SUCCESS. MAKARIOS CHOSE HIS WORDS CAREFULLY AS TO WHETHER HE WILL RETURN TO ATHENS FOR LONGER VISIT; HE NOTED THAT ALL MAIN SUBJECTS HAD NOT BEEN EXHAUSTED DURING NOV 6 STOPOVER BUT DID NOT SAY DEFINITELY THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO ATHENS. FINALLY, MAKARIOS AVOIDED POLEMICS AGAINST GRIVAS AND (OTHER THAN SINGLE REFERENCE TO MISLEADING "FOREIGN PROPAGANDA") MADE NO MENTION OF TURKS OR TURK CYPRIOT POLICY.

2. RE LIBYA, MAKARIOS DEFLECTED QUESTIONS ON ECONOMIC AID AND PROMISE OF "UNLIMITED SUPPLIES OF PETROLEUM" FROM TRIPOLI BY EXPRESSING HOPE THAT CYPRUS WOULD NOT RPT NOT NEED EITHER. ARCHBISHOP, HOWEVER, STRESSED QADDHAFI DESIRE FOR CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH CYPRUS. GOVT AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE NOT RELAYED SHARPER POINTS OF MAKARIOS/QADDHAFI COMMUNIQUE (FBIS 132307Z) IN WHICH MAKARIOS FOR FIRST TIME STATED SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIANS, VAGUELY CRITICIZED "FOREIGN FLEETS" IN MED. REMAINDER OF COMMUNIQUE IS STANDARD RHETORIC, INCLUDES QADDHAFI ACCEPTANCE INVITATION TO VISIT CYPRUS.

3. COMMENT: GREEK EMBASSY HERE (NEZERITIS) CONFIRMS THAT NOV 6 ATHENS VISIT DEALT MAINLY WITH LOCAL TALKS AND INTERNAL CYPRUS SITUATION. IN COUNSELLING RECONCILIATION, ATHENS CLEARLY HAS IN MIND SOME KIND OF AMNESTY FOR GRIVAS CAMP. WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH SIDES ATTAINED MINIMAL OBJECTIVES FROM VISIT, BUT IT APPEARS THAT UNDERSTANDING WITH GREECE DID NOT PROGRESS TO POINT AT WHICH MAKARIOS COULD OBTAIN INVITATION FOR FORMAL VISIT. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 03 NICOSI 02330 151423Z

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